

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 10382-US-PA
Application No.: 10/604,588

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action dated September 21, 2005 has rejected claims 1, 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Park (USP 6,744,195) and claims 1-6, 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winsor (USP 6,762,556). The Office Action has finally rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Volkommer et al. (US 6,034,470) and claims 9-11 as being unpatentable over Winsor further in view of Winsor (US 5,319,282).

Claims 1, 3-4, 9 and 23 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3-11 and 23 remain pending in the present application. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

The Applicants have most respectfully considered the remarks set forth in this Office Action. Regarding the anticipation and obviousness rejections, it is however strongly believed that the cited references are deficient to adequately teach the claimed features as recited in the amended claims. The reasons that motivate the above position of the Applicants are discussed in detail hereafter, upon which reconsideration of the claims is most earnestly solicited.

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Discussion of Specification Objections

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of improper language.

The abstract is amended according to the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections is courteously requested.

The title of the invention is objected to for being non-descriptive.

The title of the invention has been amended. Reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In claim 1, the limitation of "identical outer wall" lacks proper antecedent basis. The specification discloses (section [0030]) outer walls consisting of dielectric substrate 200a and plate 200b but there no mention of identical outer wall.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the limitation "identical" and to replace it with "a plurality of electrodes disposed only and directly on a same outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate of the gas discharge chamber", which is fully supported in Figures 2 & 3. Withdrawal of the rejection is thereby requested.

Response to 35 U.S.C. 102 & 103 rejections

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Claims 1, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Park (USP 6,744,195).

Claims 1-6 and 12, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winsor (USP 6,762,556).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent 1 patently define over Park and Winsor for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention. More particularly, the present invention teaches, among other thing, that "...a plurality of electrodes disposed only and directly on a same outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate of the gas discharge chamber...". In other words, the electrodes of the instant case are formed directly on the dielectric glass substrate. No additional coating of a dielectric layer is required.

Regarding Park, Park teaches embedding electrodes 43, 43a in an inner surface of a substrate 41a as clearly illustrated in Figure 5. Therefore, Park at least fails to teach "...a plurality of electrodes disposed only and directly on a same outer surface of an outer wall of the dielectric substrate of the gas discharge chamber..." of the instant case. Further, similar to the conventional art, Park also teaches the embedded electrodes 43, 43a are covered with at least a dielectric layer 47, which is obviated by the present invention.

Regarding Winsor ('556), Winsor teaches a single open chamber 12 formed by a pair of opposing planar plates, namely a bottom plate 14 and a top plate 16 (col. 3, ln. 32-34), which have a bottom planar electrode 22 and a top planar electrode 24 thereon, respectively (col. 3, ln.

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58-60). Winsor simply teaches that both electrodes 22 and 24 may be disposed on the same surface in a coplanar arrangement. Winsor fails to teach the electrodes being disposed only on a same outer surface of an outer wall of the gas discharge chamber.

Claims 7-8 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Volkommer et al. (US 6,034,470).

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that even though the Examiner relied upon Volkommer for teaching the electrodes being metal electrodes, still Volkommer cannot cure the specific deficiencies of Kuroda. Accordingly, claims 7-8 also patently define over combination of Winsor and Volkommer for at least the same reasons discussed above. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winsor (USP 6,762,556) in view of Winsor et al. (USP5,319,282).

With regard to the 103 rejections of claims by Winsor ('556) in view of Winsor ('282), Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Moreover, the planar face plate 68 of Winsor with the sidewalls 70, 72 forms a pressure chamber. As recognized by the Office, the planar face plate 68 is attached to the diffuser coating 74, carrying the chamber at a pressure between atmospheric pressure and the pressure inside the

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discharge chamber. On the other hand, the carrier substrate 21 of the instant case, which is under atmospheric pressure, is directly attached to dielectric substrate 200a without forming a second chamber. Accordingly, the carrier substrate of the instant case can aid the dielectric substrate in supporting the external pressure, to insulate and to protect the electrodes.

For at least these reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that Winsor in view of Winsor fails to render claim 1 unpatentable. Since claims 9-11 are dependent claims which further define the invention recited in claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least the reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectively requested.

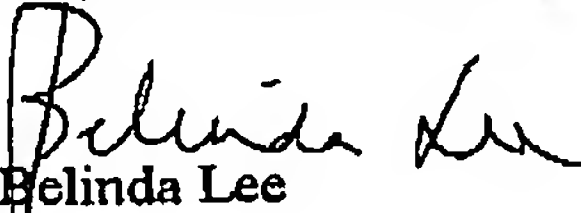
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1-11 and 23 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,


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